

1/6/72

Dear friends,

I have spent pretty much of today in an effort to frustrate what can be our greatest disaster, predicted to all or most of you three months ago. I took a little time off to think after doing what I could (phone and letter) and have decided upon this hasty note that may mystify some of you. However, to some I want to get it into tonight's mail, and that will be possible only if I can complete it in a few moments, for I have to pick my wife up where she works and the outgoing mails coincide with that time.

However, it is not time alone that limits what I can say, except to state fact as I see and interpret it. There is someone else whose interest I must protect. And I am sadly disappointed at the detachment that greeted my warning of three months ago.

Unless what I have already done and what I may yet be able to try accomplishes what I would like to think possible but cannot, not really, you will, in or within several weeks, some of you sooner, be seeing stories in your papers of which I'd appreciate copies. It will be another sanctification of the word as given by Sts. Edgar and Warren. The instrumentality fixed upon, as of today, is a syeophant well known, at least by his work, to most of you.

One of us was to have phoned me today to get a better undersnading of what is or I think is involved. That one has not. There is nthing I can do about it. Perhaps it will yet happen, but it is not 4:30 p.m., so the chances are scant.

I have backgrounded three reports on three of the more influential papers, in confidence, for the moment when use is or may be appropriate. I have a call in to another who is just about an hour from now due at work. He is distant, was not at his home. There are other things I might have done, but I can't pay for the phone calls they would require, so I haven't done them. I have used the phone where I could reverse the charges only. This may or may not be enough to counter what is, without any question, now afoot. If what I have done is or comes to be understood, the chances of frustrating it are quite good, for other instrumentalities could then be used. The government's possibilities are limitless and good.

Other things coincide with this development. I do not specify them. To do so might be unfair, and that is not my intent or desire. However, Howard is here, overheard my end of all phone conversations, has read all the letters I am mailing tonight, and if any of you has any doubt when he can talk about what I can address now only elliptically, he will be able to provide an independent judgement and assessment.

The one thing of which I can think that might have any substantial chance of doing about what impends in printing of POST MORTEM. That is close to impossible, not because it is so far from ready for printing, for it is not, but because I haven't the means and have no way of getting them that I haven't tried. I will, however, be doing what little remains on it so that, should the impossible become the reality, and when it looms like about \$15,000, I think it will remain impossible, it can be done in a matter of days. And I have, today, made a few other approaches on this. Without hope, you should understand.

So I can do no more than give you an alert that you may not understand. I'm sorry I can't now do more. Most of you should be able to guess the area that is involved, if not more, and most should, with some thought, be able to go further. Sorry, have to run.

With too many regrets,

Harold Weisberg